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NOVEMBER 27.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Forty-two persons present.

Note on Two New California Spiders and their Nests.—Rev. Dr. McCook presented a small collection of spiders received from Mr. W. G. Wright, San Bernardino, Cal., mailed November 18. One of these came within a nest, and is a Saltigrade spider, probably an *Attus*. The nest is a rare one, and was so happily placed, by the builder, on a branch of sagebrush (*Ephedra antispyphilitica*), that it was preserved intact. It is the only one which Mr. Wright had seen in site. Another nest, which he had no doubt was the same, he had observed torn from its place by some bird, as material for the construction of a bird's-nest.

Nests somewhat similar are habitually made by Pennsylvania Saltigrades upon or among leaves which shrink up as they die and tear the spinning work so as to destroy the specimen. The one exhibited was in perfect condition. It is the tent and egg-nest of the species which was alive within it, and the speaker thought to be new. It is a large example, five-eighths inch in body-length, stout, the legs of moderate thickness, the whole animal covered closely with grayish white hairs, the skin beneath being black. Dr. McCook named the species, provisionally, *Attus opifex*, with a double reference to the discoverer (Mr. Wright) and the admirable housewright qualities of the aranead herself. The nest is externally an egg-shaped mass of white spinning-work, three inches long by two and one-half inches wide. The outer part consists of a mass of fine silken lines crossing in all directions and lashed to the twigs within which it is enclosed. This maze surrounds a sac or cell of thickly-woven sheeted silk, irregularly oval in shape, two inches long by one inch wide, and also attached to the surrounding twigs. At the bottom this cell or tent is pierced by a circular opening which serves the spider as the door of her domicile. It is the habit of her genus to live and hibernate within such a silken nest. Against one side of the tent within is spun a lenticular cocoon (double convex) of thick white silk, within which the eggs were placed. The young spiders when received had escaped from the cocoon, and occupied the package-box. They are about one-eighth inch long, resembling the mother, but less heavily coated with gray.

This collection also contained three specimens (♀) of the genus *Pucetia*, as defined by Thorell.¹ This genus belongs to

¹ See "On European Spiders, *Novæ Acta Reg. Soci. Sci. Upsalensis*," vol. vii, ser. 3d, p. 196.